

ParkLife

A MIAMI-DADE PARKS PUBLICATION

Jul / Aug 2008

www.miamidade.gov/parks

Enriching Your Life
Through Natural, Cultural and
Recreational Experiences

In this Issue:

Vacation in your Backyard

**Walk on the
Wild Side**

**A Garden Collection
in the Redland**



We create
outstanding recreational,
natural and cultural experiences
to enrich you and to enhance
our community for this and
future generations.



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Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department has received accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) of the National Recreation and Park Association.

Call (305) 755-7848 or (305) 755-7980 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.



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Larry & Penny Thompson Park



IN YOUR BACKYARD

Since 1985, July has been designated as National Recreation and Parks Month. Started by the National Recreation and Parks Association, the official purpose of National Recreation and Parks Month is to showcase and invite community participation in quality leisure activities for all segments of the population.

This issue of Parklife highlights a number of great experiences to enjoy in your Miami-Dade parks. Whether you enjoy the great outdoors, cultural events or good family fun, Miami-Dade Parks has affordable, quality activities for you, your family and your friends to explore.

With the mission of providing quality natural, cultural and recreational experiences to

enhance you and the community for this and future generations, Miami-Dade Parks takes this commitment very seriously. The staff takes tremendous pride in the work it does and it is reflected in the number of events and programs offered throughout the year for all levels of interests.

Miami-Dade Parks manages more than 250 parks throughout the County from small neighborhood parks to large heritage parks. From the north to the south, there are places to escape, to play ball, to hear a concert, to canoe on a river, to relax at a beach, or to picnic with friends. In other words, it is a time for you and your family to get outside and enjoy the sunshine by visiting your beautiful Miami-Dade parks!

Larry & Penny Thompson Park

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front/back cover:
Priscilla, Grevy's Zebra,
Miami Metrozoo

Opposite page:
Lakeside beach and waterslide
Larry & Penny Thompson Park
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Vacation in Your Backyard

By
Katherine
MacDiarmid



When you think of summer, images of family vacations come to mind. A road trip in the family sedan to new and

undiscovered places was decided. Weeks were spent planning the itinerary which included stops at historical spots, fun attractions and visits with family members out of state. Finally, the car was packed and you were on your way. However, times have changed. With rising gas prices and a

looming recession, it is hard to imagine a vacation is possible in these hard economic times. But, maybe this is the time to be creative and explore the places and attractions right in your backyard.

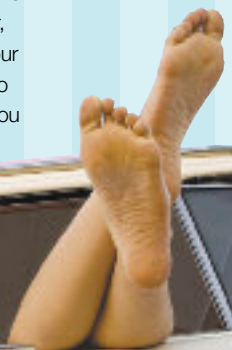
Many times we take for granted the entertainment opportunities that exist in our communities. We say we will visit them one day. Here is a chance for you to discover the undiscovered with help from Miami-Dade Parks. With more than 250 parks and hundreds of events and programs in which you can participate, you can take a one-week vacation and spend less than \$500 for a family of four, excluding meals and gas. Since your vacation is local, it may cost you no more than half a tank of gas and you get to sleep in

your own bed each night. You might want to consider packing a picnic lunch giving you another way to save money.

Day 1

With its tropical climate, South Florida offers visitors and residents year-round opportunities to explore natural, cultural and recreational activities. To get your week started, visit the Deering Estate at Cutler. Located along the edge of Biscayne Bay, the 444-acre estate is an environmental, archeological and historical preserve. From canoe

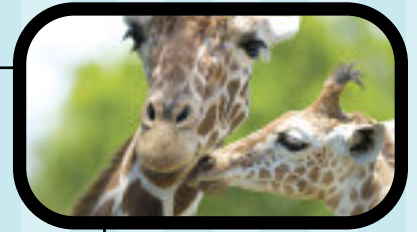
rides to butterfly hikes, and naturalist-guided tours, the Deering Estate



has diverse activities for the whole family to enjoy. The estate offers daily tours at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. of its historic houses – the Stone House and Richmond Cottage – as well as tours of the lush natural areas where fossil bones have been found that date back to 50,000 years ago. On the weekends, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., you can rent kayaks and paddle the beautiful bay where you may catch a glimpse of manatees in the boat basin. Kayak rental for adults is \$10 per hour plus regular park admission, and for children, ages 9-15, it is \$8 per hour plus regular park admission. Price includes kayak, life vest, paddles and a small dry bag. You must be 21 years old to rent a kayak. Individuals ages 9-20 must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian in the same kayak. Two people per kayak are required.

Day 2

Lauded as "Miami's top-rated attraction" by Zagat Survey, Miami Metrozoo is ranked among the top zoos in the country. As the only subtropical zoo in the continental United States, Miami Metrozoo is Day 2 on your vacation. You can meander through the trails and encounter a wide range of animal life from Asia, Africa, Australia, and Latin America. The lush tropical setting easily replicates animals' natural habitats. Koalas, Komodo



dragons, okapi and dozens of other animals you may have never seen await you around every turn. Or you can glide above this wildlife wonderland inside a guided, air-conditioned monorail. Or take a behind the scenes tram tour. Or pedal through, with the entire family, on one of the four-wheeled Safari Cycles. Take the opportunity to feed the giraffes and pelicans while you are there. To end your day, located just down the street is Palmetto Mini-Golf, a beautifully landscaped 18-hole course and new addition to Miami-Dade Parks. For as little as \$5 each, a family of four can have fun while testing their skills.

Day 3

After two days of walking and exercising, take a leisurely break and enjoy a day at the beach. Rated as one of the top 10

beaches in the United States for the past 10 years, the beach at Crandon Park is a great way to unwind. Unique to the beach are the cabanas available for daily, monthly or yearly rental. Built in the 1950s, the cabanas are reminiscent of youthful times spent on family vacations. The 10' x 10' cabanas include a private shower in each. There are 70 cabanas on site with eight designated as accessible to persons with disabilities. Bring your beach chairs, towels, grill to picnic and spend the day relaxing. However, no glass is allowed in the area.

Day 4

The only tropical botanical garden of its kind in the United States, Fruit & Spice Park is a unique

37-acre public facility owned and operated by Miami-Dade Parks. The tropical climate, found nowhere else in the continental U.S., allows the park to grow more than 500 varieties of fruits, vegetables, spices, herbs, nuts, and other commercially important plant specimens from around the world. You can find 150 varieties of mango, 75 varieties of bananas, 70 varieties of bamboo, and numerous exotic edibles, and visitors are invited to munch at the tasting counter inside the park store. Open seven days a week except Christmas, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., guided tours are conducted every day. Park admission is \$6.00 per adult, \$1.50 per child age 6-12, and children under six are free. Picnic facilities are available.



waters of Biscayne Bay and offshore ocean sites. Tours are conducted in the beautiful surrounding waters of Crandon Park's Bear Cut Marine Preserve. Explore and discover colorful tropical fish, spotted eagle rays, cushion stars, upside down jellyfish, coastal birds, and mammals that share this fragile and unique marine environment we call "Miami's backyard." Two-person "sit on top" ocean kayaks are provided and all trips are beginner friendly for the whole family. Participants should bring a snack, water (one quart minimum), sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent, shoes you don't mind getting wet, wide brimmed hat, dress for the weather, and a sealable plastic bag or container to secure important belongings.

Day 5

Eco-Adventures kayak and snorkeling tours are exciting ways to explore the wildlife and varied marine life of Miami-Dade Parks' coastal parks and preserves.



Day 6

If you do not have one, spend a day in a Miami-Dade pool. Located throughout the County, the 12 pools managed by Miami-Dade Parks are supervised by certified lifeguards and fees range from 50¢ to \$1.50

Led by knowledgeable naturalist-guides, Crandon Park tours on Key Biscayne include an introduction to the natural history and ecology of the warm tropical

per person. With fees that low, you can tell the kids to bring along their friends. Parents can relax in the sun as the kids enjoy splashing and swimming in the pool.

Day 7

End your vacation with a leisurely canoe trip along the Oleta River catching a glimpse of the many wading birds and mammals that inhabit the river eco-system, and visit an undisturbed Indian midden. Or, if you choose, take a guided tour on the Gables waterway rich in history and wildlife, and nestled in



one of Miami-Dade County's most popular and beautiful communities. Tours are rated moderate (Oleta River) and easy (Gables waterway) and take approximately 3-to-4 hours. Led by experienced and knowledgeable naturalist-guides, these trips include the best gear and lots of creative touches to enhance the enjoyment of your experience. These are just a couple of examples of the unique, outdoor adventure excursions provided by



Miami-Dade Parks' Eco-Adventures, which also offers kayak fishing, backpack

wilderness treks and star gazing outings.

Now you have everything you need to get "traveling." Get out and explore your own backyard. It could end up being your most

relaxing vacation yet. For specific questions regarding your adventure, contact the facility directly. Phone numbers have been included on the chart.



Seven Day Itinerary for Your Vacation

The costs below are based on a family of four (2 adults and 2 children) and does not include meals.

Day 1 (Sunday)	Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave 305-235-1668	\$7/adult \$5/child (ages 4-14)	\$24
	Kayak Rental 16701 SW 72 Ave 305-235-1668	\$10/hr for adults \$8/hr for children (ages 9-15) Admission extra	\$72 for 2 hr rental
Day 2 (Monday)	Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152nd St (305) 251-0400	\$13.95/adult \$9.95/child Additional fees (optional) Safari Cycle: \$22/2 hrs Monorail: \$3/person Tram tours: \$3.95/person Feeding Stations: Giraffe \$2 each, pelican \$1 each	\$109.60 (includes additional fees)
	Palmetto Mini-Golf 9300 SW 152 St 305-238-2922	Mon - Fri: 7a.m. - 6p.m.: \$5 Mon - Fri: 6p.m. - close: \$6 Sat, Sun, and holidays: \$6	\$20 or \$24 depending on arrival time
Day 3 (Tuesday)	A Day at the Beach Crandon Park, Key Biscayne 6767 Crandon Blvd. 305-365-3018	\$37.50/day includes tax + 1.50/car toll fee for Key Biscayne	\$39
Day 4 (Wednesday)	Fruit and Spice Park 24801 SW 187th Ave 305-247-5727	\$5/adult \$1.50/child	\$13
Day 5 (Thursday)	EcoAdventures Kayaking and snorkeling Crandon Park (see Day 3)	\$42/adult \$22/child + \$1.50 toll fee for Key Biscayne	\$129.50
Day 6 (Friday)	A Day at the Pool (Various sites - see page 36)	\$.50 to \$1.50 per person	\$9 (includes 2 friends)
Day 7 (Saturday)	EcoAdventures Canoe Trip: Oleta River or Gables Waterway Call 305-365-3018	\$25/adult \$15/child (ages 7-15)	\$80



I am Miami — Dade Parks

By Susana Cortázar



Renae Nottage, Country Village Park

Growing up as the only girl with four athletic brothers and parents who played sports in college, Renae Nottage had no choice but to be active and sports-oriented as a result. Although armed with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Florida A&M University (FAMU), one-year's experience as a graduate assistant with FAMU's women's softball team, as well as playing with several traveling women's major softball teams, Renae felt teaching was not for her, so the pursuit of a different, more fulfilling career became compelling.

"I realized working for Parks was the career path in which I could make a difference in the lives of children."

Having worked at Cutler Ridge Park and in the North Dade District office during college summer breaks, Renae soon realized working in the parks system with youngsters "was the career path in which I could make a difference in the lives of children. They come to parks because they want to be there, so I feel we have a wonderful opportunity to mentor them." Eventually, her dream came true and she was hired as a Manager 1 at Buccaneer Park in 1988 by the Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department, where she has steadily worked her way up from part-time service aide to her current position as Region Manager of Region 1.

Renae's enthusiasm and motivation are most apparent as she recalls her favorite experience during her long tenure with the department. "I was coaching my tennis team at Buccaneer Park and knew very little about tennis except what I learned in college, but the kids on my team taught me the game. I attended every clinic I could find and we would play every day, all day, rain or shine. We competed in the National Junior Tennis League, which provided exposure and valuable competition skills. The team tried

out as 'ball kids' at the Lipton Tennis Tournament (now the Sony Ericsson) and were selected to service professional tennis players like Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Steffi Graff, and Venus and Serena Williams on the court. I have been training the 'ball kids' for this prestigious tournament for the past 15 years."



Another great source of pride to Renae is the positive impact our recreation programs have on the community. With the operation of Crandon Golf Course, Crandon Tennis Center, Crandon Beach; Tamiami, Tropical, and Amelia Earhart parks; as well as various marinas and recreation centers, Renae is adamant that "no other municipality within South Florida can compare" with the programs offered and amenities available therein.

Recreation programs in a community should not be taken lightly or for granted. It takes dedication, hard work and determination to make a difference in the lives of others as Renae has. Whether it's an after-school program, major special event or her implementation of the "Fit to Play, Fun for Life" theme three years ago to encourage healthy lifestyles among kids attending our summer camp program, this community would not reap the benefits of such recreational programs if it were not for employees like Renae, who enthusiastically states that after 19 years in the department, "I can honestly say that I LOVE my job."

I am Miami-Dade Parks is a recurring article that will highlight volunteers, staff and participants in our recreational, natural and cultural programs.

A close-up photograph of a White Handed Gibbon hanging from a branch. The gibbon has long, white, shaggy fur and a black face. Its arms are extended upwards, and its legs are also extended, showing its long, thin limbs. The background is a soft-focus green forest with sunlight filtering through the leaves.

By
Susana Cortázar and
Cindy Castelblanco

WALK THE WILD SIDE

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

White Handed Gibbon

If that is the case, a microcosm of a great nation is then to be found at Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department's world-renowned Miami Metrozoo, where animals live in replicas of their natural habitats and are tended to with utmost respect by professional, highly-trained and caring staff.

We have come a long way from the first Miami Metrozoo, which opened in Key Biscayne in 1948. Originally known as the Crandon Park Zoo, its first animals were two Russian black bears, an ocelot, an African green monkey, a Rhesus monkey, and a goat. The animals came to town as part of a traveling circus in a truck that broke down soon after arrival.

Not having money to pay for repairs, the owners bartered with Dade County and traded the animals for the cost of fixing the truck. The zoo also operated a small tour train for visitors and a carousel. Some of the train tracks are still exposed and the 1949 carousel, which closed in 1981, was restored and children still enjoy it today.

As a result of devastation caused to Key Biscayne and surrounding areas by 1965's Hurricane Betsy, it was determined the zoo's location was not conducive to the animals' safety and well-being, so the idea of building a new zoo in South Dade was conceived. A preview center of the current facility opened July 4, 1980, and the awesome Miami Metrozoo officially opened in 1981.

The sprawling 740-acre facility houses more than 1,300 animals, representing more than 400 species including



White Handed Gibbon

Caribbean flamingoes, African and Asian elephants, kangaroos, koalas, cheetahs, giraffes, cranes, tortoises, Komodo dragons, rhinoceroses, monkeys, chimpanzees, zebras, hyenas, and venomous snakes.

Divided into "continents," the zoo has replicated the natural habitats of the animals including the temple ruins at Angkor Wat that house the majestic tigers, thereby enhancing their comfort and the visitor's educational experience. Australia, Africa and Asia can be "visited" all in one day.

Opening at the end of 2008 Amazon & Beyond will add another continent to the experience. This 27-acre \$50 million exhibit is dedicated to the flora and fauna of Tropical America. It will be one of the world's greatest exhibits with more than 1,000 animals – we call it "Miami's next big thing." Larger than the average American zoo and designed by Jones & Jones, designers of exhibits at San Diego Zoo and Disney's Animal Kingdom, Amazon & Beyond will be home to giant river otters that are capable of standing six-feet tall when fully grown. Only three other locations in the U.S. house them. Other species include anacondas, Harpy

Indian Rhinoceros



Great Egret

eagles, jaguars, anteaters, Orinoco crocodiles and venomous snakes, to name a few.

Since man is also a part of the Amazon region, both in contemporary and historical aspects, elements focusing on a wide range of the region's cultures will be built-in to the exhibit adding a richness and excitement that has not been seen before at most zoos. Even more important, Amazon & Beyond will add a critical conservation and educational boost to a part of the U.S. that has deep ties to the region. As Miami is often referred to as "the Gateway to the Americas," Miami Metrozoo's new Amazon & Beyond will add an exclamation point to that claim. For more details about the project see Progress Report on page 37.

When visiting Miami Metrozoo, there are several opportunities to enhance your experience. Through zookeeper talks, you can learn about the animals from the experts who care for them daily, providing visitors, young and old, the chance to ask zookeepers questions about the animals and their behavior. Scheduled at almost every half hour from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., these talks are great opportunities to see the animals most active and to speak with those who know them best, their keepers.

Interactive animal opportunities at the zoo include the Samburu Giraffe Feeding Station where visitors can feed giraffes for only \$2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Pelicans at Pelican Cove also love to snack on fish daily at 10:30 a.m.



Bengal Tiger

and at 4 p.m.. One dollar buys you a cup o' fish for them. Opening this summer is Humpy's Camel Rides at The Mercantil Commercebank Children's Zoo. For just \$5, kids can ride these tame camels with a handler. Kids ages 4 - 13 can also experience more of our animals during the Bank of America Zoofari Summer Camp from June 16 – August 1.

For a cooler experience at Miami Metrozoo, particularly this summer, visitors can take advantage of the many refreshing activities available to them. Our newest area for chills is a small mushroom water play area by the spotted hyenas. Here kids of all ages can get wet by a water showering



Red Kangaroo

'shroom. There is also a larger water play area by Oasis Grille where everyone can get soaked with a water shooting frog, a pink flamingo and other fun zoo spouts. Our first-ever water play area, the Cool Zoo™ Seahorse Water Play, is located next to The Mercantil Commercebank Children's Zoo. Here, seahorses shoot water onto anyone standing in the padded area surrounding the spout. All three areas shoot out hours of fun under the sun and are favorites among our smallest visitors.

Other fun activities include renting Safari Cycles, shaded 4-wheeled bikes that ride anywhere from 5 to 8 people, or renting pedal boats by Oasis Grille on weekends. Visitors can also hop on a behind-the-scenes tram tour from the zoo entrance or take an air conditioned monorail ride throughout the zoo. The American Banker's Family Aviary Wings of Asia houses more than 300 Asian birds, and Dr. Wilde's World, an interactive indoor air-conditioned complex, currently houses turtles, crocodilians, lizards, and snakes from around the world through August 10.

But Miami-Dade Parks' Metrozoo is not all about just fun and games. Staff is staunchly committed to partnering with conservation and preservation organizations, scientists, governmental and non-governmental entities, and researchers around the world to ensure endangered plants, animals and ecosystems are saved and preserved.

MIAMI METROZOO

12400 SW 152 Street

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

General admission: \$13.95 per adult and \$9.95 per child, plus tax.

Children under three, ZSF members and parking are free. Ticket booths close at 4:00 PM.

(305) 251-0400 or e-mail info@zsf.org.

www.miamimetrozoo.com

Miami Metrozoo is a fully accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

*Zoological Society of Florida

African Elephant

By Katherine MacDiarmid CLOSE ENCOUNTERS



It is one thing to look at the animals from the manicured walkways of Miami Metrozoo. It is another to step behind the scenes and see the animals and their keepers in their daily routines. If you have the chance, it is an experience you will not soon forget. Out of curiosity, I took the opportunity to see it firsthand. My day started at 7 a.m. and began as every zookeeper's day begins, checking the animals under their care to see how they fared overnight. Madelyn Tucker was my guide for the introduction to the day. She oversees parts of the Australian exhibits, so I saw New Guinea singing dogs, Cape hunting dogs, red kangaroos, koalas, red river hogs, Mataschies tree kangaroos, a giant tortoise, Grant's gazelle, and the warthogs.

After the initial check of the animals, all the keepers met before starting their day to read the overnight reports on their animals. After the meeting, I went with Nicholas Pottratz, keeper for the giraffes, Grant's zebras,

Grevy's zebras, Grant's gazelles, and ostriches. With an assistant, Victor Gonzalez, they guided the animals from the overnight enclosures to the exhibition paddock. To move the giraffes, Nick used training techniques that not only assist in getting them to the paddock, but also help when it is time for vet visits to assess the animals. One by one each giraffe participated, some more willingly than others. Then, I was handed the shovel. Yes, be prepared to participate in all the tasks of the zookeeper during your day.

Delora Batchelor was our guide in the aviary. There are far too many birds to name, but Delora and the aviary staff know them all and their habits.

At the end of the day, completely exhausted, I came away with a tremendous respect for the work the zookeepers do every day. They show great commitment to their job and their animals. And, as an employee of the Parks Department, you might think my day at the zoo was a perk of the job, but the close encounter I had is available to all. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity I highly recommend.

Reticulated Giraffe

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT MIAMI METROZOO

For all the activities listed below, advance registration and appropriate dress is required. Admission to Miami Metrozoo is included in the fees below.

Keepers & Kids: \$20/student (required chaperones admitted free). Includes zookeeper talks, animal encounters, monorail, tram tour, lunch for students (chaperone lunches not included). (305) 251-0400

Mercantil Commercebank Children's Zoo-Teen Zookeeper for a Day: \$150/person for ZSF members and \$200/person for non-members Tues. & Sat., 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Youth, ages 10 – 18, experience the zoo by preparing the animals' diets, feeding the animals and assisting with the Meerkat Zookeeper talk. (305) 255-5551, ext. 139

Behind-the-Scenes Keeper Tours: \$65.95 + tax for two people and \$22.95 + tax for each additional person (five person limit and children must be 8 years or older). Daily, 10:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. (subject to staff availability). Encounter wildlife up close and personal. Choose birds, mammals or general. (305) 251-0400

Zookeeper for a Day: \$145/person (includes lunch and zookeeper t-shirt). Sat. & Sun., 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Spend a day working alongside zookeepers as they care for the animals at Miami Metrozoo. (305) 251-0400, ext. 246 or 230.

After-school Programs

For decades, families have turned to the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department for quality recreational activities and cultural programs for their children throughout the school year.

The Parks Department has honored that trust by providing a variety of specialized and general after-school programs that are fun, mentally stimulating and physically challenging.

Offered at numerous parks throughout Miami-Dade County, the after-school programs, available to children ages 6-14, are designed to improve their quality of life through education, physical fitness, environmental awareness, and cultural appreciation.

After-school programs include homework assistance and study periods in clean, safe, air conditioned areas. After-school hours are further enlivened by highly trained recreation specialists who engage the children with indoor and outdoor games and sports such as flag football,

volleyball, basketball, track and field, soccer, tennis, swimming, and softball. Some parks also offer a teen program for youth ages 12-15.

arts & crafts
flag football • dance
volleyball • chorus
basketball • soccer
track & field • tennis
swimming • softball
puppetry • ceramics
playing instruments
and much more!

Miami-Dade Parks provides a wellness component to its after-school program - **Fit to Play, Fun for Life** – which teaches and motivates kids to achieve good health through fun, exhilarating physical activities and wise eating habits. In partnership with The Children's Trust and University of Miami Health System, Miami-Dade Parks' recreation leaders share nutritional tips and lead kids through activities that promote a healthy lifestyle which will continue through adulthood.

Another element of the after-school program is the exposure of children



to the importance and vitality of arts and culture. From modern and ethnic dance to arts and crafts to puppetry, ceramics, chorus, playing instruments, and much more, children celebrate their roots as well as acquire an appreciation for the many cultures and vast diversity in our community.

Children with disabilities also benefit from leisure access services and partake in the many activities offered by the after-school programs.

For parents' and children's convenience, after-school programs are offered in parks throughout north, central, and south Miami-Dade County. Transportation is available on a limited basis and provided at an additional charge.



If you would like to enroll your child in an after-school program and enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing he or she is in a safe environment, learning, having fun, and keeping fit, go to **www.miamidade.gov/parks**, call **305-755-7800**, or contact your neighborhood park directly for more information.



Parks in Focus

Photography by Peter Dooling

Carlita, White Bengal Tiger, Miami Metrozoo



Kalu, Indian Rhinoceros, Miami Metrozoo



Machito, African Elephant, Miami Metrozoo



Miami-Dade Parks

After-school

PROGRAMS



A variety of specialized and general after-school programs are offered at more than 40 parks throughout Miami-Dade County for youth, ages 6 – 14.

Don't let your child miss out on the fun. Enroll today.

For Miami-Dade Parks After-school Program locations, call (305) 755-7800 or visit www.miamidade.gov/parks.

Call 305-755-7848 or 305-755-7980 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (seven days advance notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.



Miami-Dade
Parks

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EcoAdventures@miamidade.gov
www.miamiecoadventures.org



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Fruit & Spice Park

A GARDEN COLLECTION IN THE REDLAND



of the area known as the Redland, named for the reddish color of its soil. The Redland became one of the first lasting settlements of South Dade County, and its sub-tropical climate created a unique agricultural environment able to produce a wide variety of exotic fruit. In 1896, a newspaper stated that farmers in South Dade were producing “avocados, pears, mangos, sapodillas, paw paw (papaya), lemons, limes, etc.”

Mary Calkins Heinlein came from a family of pioneer homesteaders in the Redland, and at her urging, county commissioners and pioneer Parks Director

A.D. Barnes began a series of transactions to purchase an 18-acre parcel of land on the Southeast corner of Coconut Palm Drive and Redland Road in the Redland in 1935. County Commissioner Preston B. Bird was instrumental in securing funds, and the land was finally acquired in 1943 after a series of court procedures to resolve problems with title and justification for park use. With the backing of Parks Director A.D. Barnes, Mary Heinlein could finally begin realizing the creation of a garden collection of semi-tropical fruits.

The County's Parks Department contracted William Lyman Phillips, landscape architect and designer of the world-famous Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, to develop landscape plans for the newly purchased land. Plans for what was to become the new garden park were completed in 1944 and construction began that year. Parks Director Barnes recognized Mary Heinlein as the driving force that inspired the creation of the

park, and appointed her its first superintendent until her retirement in 1959.

PRESTON B. BIRD AND MARY HEINLEIN FRUIT & SPICE PARK

The daughter of pioneer sub-tropical farmers, Mrs. Heinlein was fascinated with the exotic fruits and flora of South Florida. She was an active garden club member and she and her husband Herman, who was also a surveyor, owned a small nursery in the Redland. Following William Lyman Phillips' landscape plans, Mrs. Heinlein and her husband led a team of laborers and park workers in laying out the plots and started collecting specimens to plant in the park. The collection grew and soon a variety of rare fruits, nuts and spices flourished.

In 1980, as a tribute to Preston B. Bird and Mary Heinlein, the Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department

changed the park's name from *Redland Fruit & Spice Park* to *Preston B. Bird & Mary Heinlein Fruit & Spice Park*. Although not its official park name, for convenience, it has become known as *Fruit & Spice Park*.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE PARK

In addition to the gardens, the park also maintained and showcased two original historic structures on the property: and then an original one-room Redland Schoolhouse built in 1906 and a coral rock building built around 1913 as a laboratory for citrus canker research. In 1982, Redland resident Fran Mitchell donated another historic home to the park. Due in large part to the efforts of Redland resident Robert



Jensen, the 1902 historic structure was moved to Fruit & Spice Park from its original location eight miles away. The structure was named the Bauer-Neill-Mitchell House. It was preserved as an example of a typical Redland Pioneer home and landscaped with archetypical plants and fruit varieties.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew caused extensive damage to the park garden and the historic buildings. The storm destroyed tree canopies, planting beds, irrigation, fencing, the nursery, and two of the historic buildings. Only the coral-rock building survived the storm despite broken windows and roof damage. The Redland Schoolhouse and the Bauer-Neill-Mitchell House were completely destroyed.

Using funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, a replica of both buildings was completed in 2002. The new park store and Welcome Center moved into the schoolhouse and the Bauer-Neill-Mitchell House now serves as a meeting center.

The Redland area's significance as a South Dade pioneer settlement was officially recognized in 1981 and the park, the Redland Community United



Methodist Church and several surrounding homes were designated as the Redland Historic District.

THE HARVEST GROWS

In the early 1980's under the direction of the park's current manager, Chris Rollins, the park implemented an ambitious development program. An exotic plant enthusiast who had previously served as president of the Rare Fruit Council International, Mr. Rollins brought a wealth of botanical knowledge and expertise to the park. He made various collecting trips throughout Asia and Latin America and his first planting added over 100 new specimens to the park's collection, which now includes plants and trees from Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, Panama, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, Burma, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

A comprehensive new master plan was developed by the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department in 1989 to incorporate expanded park acreage, address future needs and allow for more culturally interesting interpretation. Park Manager Chris Rollins' travels gave rise to the use of an ethno-botanical approach in the plans with areas laid out by tropical, geographical regions. Bond referendums approved in 1997 and 2004 secured funds for the completion of the master plan ensuring that Fruit & Spice Park continues to be an integral part of the Redland's rich agricultural and historic heritage.



THE PARK TODAY

In 2007, six acres were added to the east side of the park with the acquisition of the Fournier and Summers properties

made possible through support by the Redland Citizens Association, Commissioner Katy Sorenson and the Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department. Today, Fruit & Spice Park is a 37-acre, subtropical, botanical paradise nestled in the heart of the historic Redland community just 35 miles south of Miami. Surrounded by thousands of acres of tropical agriculture, the park is a horticultural jewel in South Florida's agricultural community attracting over 27,000 visitors a year to its gardens and festivals.



More than 500 varieties of exotic fruits, herbs, spices and nuts from around the world including 80 varieties of bananas; 70 varieties of bamboo; 40 varieties of grapes; 150 varieties of mangoes; 15 varieties of jackfruit trees and numerous other exotic edibles are grown and maintained here.

Visitors can sample fallen fruit (no above-ground harvesting is permitted) and arrangements may be made with park management for collecting seeds and cuttings suitable for planting. Park Manager Chris

Rollins and a staff of experts conduct classes, workshops, and botanical tours on a year-round basis with topics that include: vegetables and edible oddities, plant propagation, farm tours of South Florida, and cooking with tropical fruits & vegetables.



Fruit & Spice Park also plays host to some long-standing annual festivals. Each January, the Redland Festival celebrates the rich agricultural heritage of the area with music, arts and crafts, food, strolling entertainment, exotic plant sales and the park's wide variety of Asian produce makes it the perfect setting for the annual Asian Culture Festival held in the spring.

Fruit & Spice Park

24801 SW 187th Avenue
305-247-5727
FSP@miamidadepark.org
www.fruitandspicepark.org

Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week, closed on Christmas.
Admission: \$5/Adult, \$1.50/Child 6-12, and children under 6 are free.
Guided tours are conducted every day at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Special tours can be arranged at convenient times for schools, clubs and any special interest groups from preschoolers to golden-years groups. Picnic facilities are available.



By Susana Cortázar

RED, WHITE & BOOM!



FIREWORKS EXPLODE AT 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS



Think 4th of July and specific images automatically come to mind – America's birthday, forefathers, independence from British rule, fireworks, barbecues, parades, baseball games, apple pie, hot dogs, hamburgers, concerts, elected officials talking about our great country, and many other fun activities held in our great parks.

The Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department has honored this all-American tradition of bringing families and friends together to its parks to ensure a fun, safe and celebratory time. And there is no better venue to enjoy this day than at Amelia Earhart Park or Black Point Park and Marina.

At Amelia Earhart Park, one of the Parks Department's largest and most beautiful facilities, the 4th of July celebration is one of our community's showcases, where visitors can enjoy amenities such as picnic tables and shelters; the Bill Graham Farm Village where cows, goats, chickens, pigs, sheep, donkeys, and geese love to be petted; a bark park with such doggie-friendly amenities as sand areas, agility training equipment, and swimming pools; soccer fields; mountain biking; a junior sailing program; and a country store. There is also a pony ring where kids can ride ponies, jump into a big

haystack or drive an old tractor. And if fishing is how you relax, there is a fresh water lake filled with huge bass.

July 4 activities will be held from 1:00 – 10:00 p.m. with family fun, food, drinks, live music throughout the day, and fireworks beginning at 9:00 p.m. All you need to do is take a lawn chair or blanket and be prepared to have fun. Coolers are not allowed, and food and drinks will be sold.

At Black Point Park and Marina you will enjoy a fireworks display to cap a day of picnicking, strolling the beautiful facility or dining at the restaurant above the marina.

Admission to both events is free. Parking at Amelia Earhart is \$10 per car; \$15 per bus and RV.

Amelia Earhart Park
401 E. 65th Street
(305) 685-8389

Black Point Park & Marina
24775 S.W. 87 Avenue
(305) 258-4092

Please visit www.miamidade.gov/parks for more details on these and other Parks Department activities.

Parks at a Glance



1



2



3

1

Senior Showcase

The choir at Arcola Lakes Park participated in the first Mayor's Senior Talent Show at Miami-Dade County Auditorium on May 7, 2008.

2

2008 Miami International Agriculture and Cattle Show

Miss Rodeo poses with a participant and his award winning Brahman during the show May 16 - 18, 2008, at the Ronald Reagan Equestrian Center at Tropical Park.

3

A Day at the Races

Students from throughout Miami-Dade County watched pig races during the Education Day, May 16, at the 2008 Miami International Agriculture and Cattle Show.

4

Dedication at Tropical Estates Park

The Recreation Building at Tropical Estates Park was dedicated May 10, 2008.

5

Give Peace a Chance

Miami-Dade Parks Director Jack Kardys, Miami-Dade Commissioner Sally Heyman and Park & Recreation Citizens Advisory Board member John Gold participate in the planting of "mushrooms" as part of the Spore Project art installation by Orlando artist Doug Rhodehamel during the 5th Annual Greynolds Park Love-In, May 18, 2008.

6

Spencer Davis Group Rocks the Crowd

Legendary 1960s rock musicians, Spencer Davis Group, played to an appreciative crowd during the annual Greynolds Park Love-In. Over 4,000 people participated in the day-long event.



4



5



6



CHAMPIONS IN OUR PARKS

By Roger L. Hammer

Big trees are the stuff of legend, poetry and ghost stories. They capture our imagination with their size, beauty, strength, and grandeur. They provide shade and a cozy place to sit under to read, paint, meditate or have a picnic. Kids love to climb them and build houses between their branches. You can hang a tire or a slab of wood from one and swing to your heart's content. Birds build intricate nests in their branches, and cats love to climb them (coming down is a different story).

American Forests, an organization dedicated to protecting, restoring, and enhancing trees and forests, recognizes the critical impact trees have in our lives, awarding species which meet stringent criteria "champion" status and listing them in the National Register of Big Trees since 1940.

The Miami-Dade County Park & Recreation Department is home to several registered champion trees, including Mexican alvaradoa (*Alvaradoa amorphoides*) at Camp Owaissa Bauer, strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*) at Bill Sadowski Park, false-mastic (*Sideroxylon foetidissimum*) at Castellow Hammock Park, and black olive (*Bucida buceras*, a naturalized species) at the Deering Estate at Cutler. West Perrine Park boasts the Florida state champion sycamore fig (*Ficus sycamorus*), and national champion redberry stopper (*Eugenia confusa*) is found at

Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, a former Miami-Dade Parks facility.

Sadly, Hurricane Andrew's considerable mischief in 1992 toppled a number of national champions. Lost were poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*) and the paradise tree (*Simarouba glauca*) at Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, as well as the wild tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*) and West Indian lilac (*Tetrazygia bicolor*) at Castellow Hammock Park. The ex-champion wild tamarind can still be seen along Castellow Hammock Park's nature trail but, where it once stood 115', it is now 115' long after being blown over by Andrew! Big trees can succumb to storms, disease and old age, but when they lose champion status, it enables another tree to compete for the title.

To achieve champion status, a tree must be measured and nominated. Measurements include height, circumference at breast height (4.5

narrowest axes of the canopy). Points are given for each measurement, and a tree receives one point per each of the following: foot of height, inch of circumference at breast height, and foot of crown spread. The total number of points determines whether it becomes a national champion (must be either native to the United States or naturalized), a co-champion (any species growing in the state), or receives no official status.

The procedure to nominate a tree for champion status has been standardized for most state Big Tree Lists and the National Register. If you would like to nominate a tree, go to www.championtrees.org. The local Division of Forestry office can assist you in measuring your tree and advising whether it qualifies. Who knows, you just may have a winner!

But even if you don't have a champion tree in your back yard,

Big trees can succumb to storms,
disease and old age,
but when they lose champion status,
it enables another tree to compete
for the title.

feet above ground), and the average canopy spread (one quarter the average canopy spread in feet, measured along the widest and

you can visit one of the many facilities offered by Miami-Dade Parks and bask in the beauty of these majestic gifts from nature.



By Katherine MacDiarmid

It's the heart of the summer and it is hot. So the idea of heading home after work for a jog or walk in the heat may not sound that appealing. Miami-Dade Parks can offer you an alternative means of exercise that will push your body in new directions and work muscles you did not know you had while keeping you cool at the same time. According to the United States Swimming Association, swimming is becoming an increasingly popular means of exercise. Unlike the jarring action running has on your knees, ankles, hips and back, swimming is a fluid means of exercise that takes the impact off your lower joints allowing you freer movement. And, it is not just swimming; there are various types of activities you can do in the water to take the strain off your joints including water aerobics and Ai Chi (Aquatic Tai Chi).

During the summer months, Miami-Dade Parks operates 12 swimming pools and offers a variety of activities for all from children age three to seniors. If you do not know how to swim, Miami-Dade Parks has qualified instructors to teach you the fundamentals. All of the Miami-Dade Parks swimming classes are conducted by water safety instructors who are certified

by the American Red Cross and other nationally recognized training agencies.

Through the Tiny Tots Program, children ages 3 to 5 become comfortable around the water. This class provides parents with information and techniques to help orient their children to the water and supervise water activities in a safe manner. A parent or guardian is required in the water with each child, and basic skills are learned first. Once learned, the instructor will introduce new skills and increase the child's endurance in the water. Adult swimming lessons are designed for the

beginner and those interested in increasing their skill coordination.

All levels of skill and rescue techniques are taught. Children and adults with disabilities are welcome in all Miami-Dade Parks' aquatic activities and facilities. At A.D. Barnes Pool, Goulds Pool, Marva Bannerman Pool, Palm Springs North Pool, Richmond, Tamiami Pool, Tropical Estates Pool, and South Dade Pool, these pools have lifts for individuals with mobility impairments.

Fees vary for swimming and Learn-to-Swim programs. Contact your neighborhood pool for costs and hours of operation.

Miami-Dade Parks provides Red Cross Lifeguard Training for boys and girls, ages 15 and up, in a regulation four-week course, usually taught in the spring and early summer. Eligible candidates must complete rigorous requirements, such as swimming 500 continuous yards, submerging to a depth of at least 10 feet, returning a 10-pound weight from the pool floor, and other tasks.

All lifeguard trainees learn first aid, CPR and emergency rescue techniques and are issued a certificate authorized by the American Red Cross. The minimum age for an entry lifeguard position is 17 years of age, and all lifeguards must be recertified once every three years.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CALL 305-223-7077**



	Heated	Summer Only	Swim Team	Learn-to-Swim	Exercise Classes	Lifeguard Classes (spring only)	Instruction	Synchronized	Pool Lifts	Pool Rental
A. D. Barnes 3701 SW 72 Ave 305-665-1626										
Arcola 1680 NW 87 St 305-691-5104										
Goulds 21840 SW 114 Ave 305-233-5100										
Gwen Cherry 2591 NW 71 St 305-691-2439	TEMPORARILY CLOSED									
Little River 10525 NW 24 Ave 305-696-7651										
Marva Y. Bannerman 4829 NW 24 Ave 305-635-2461					<div>MIAMI-DADE PARKS' SWIMMING POOLS AND PROGRAMS</div>					
Naranja 14150 SW 264 St 305-258-1945										
Palm Springs North 7901 NW 176 St 305-558-3762										
Rockway 9460 SW 27 Dr 305-223-8742										
Richmond Pool 14375 Boggs Dr 305-238-5692										
Helen Sands Pool @ South Dade Park 16350 SW 280 St 305-248-1386										
Tamiami 11201 SW 24 St 305-223-7077										
Tropical Estates 10201 SW 48 St 305-221-5041										

progress report...

By Angel Trujillo
and Angus Laney

Miami-Dade Parks Planning & Development is responsible for all steps in acquiring, developing and maintaining the 259 parks in the department's inventory. Progress Report is a recurring article that will feature construction and capital projects occurring in the Miami-Dade Parks system.

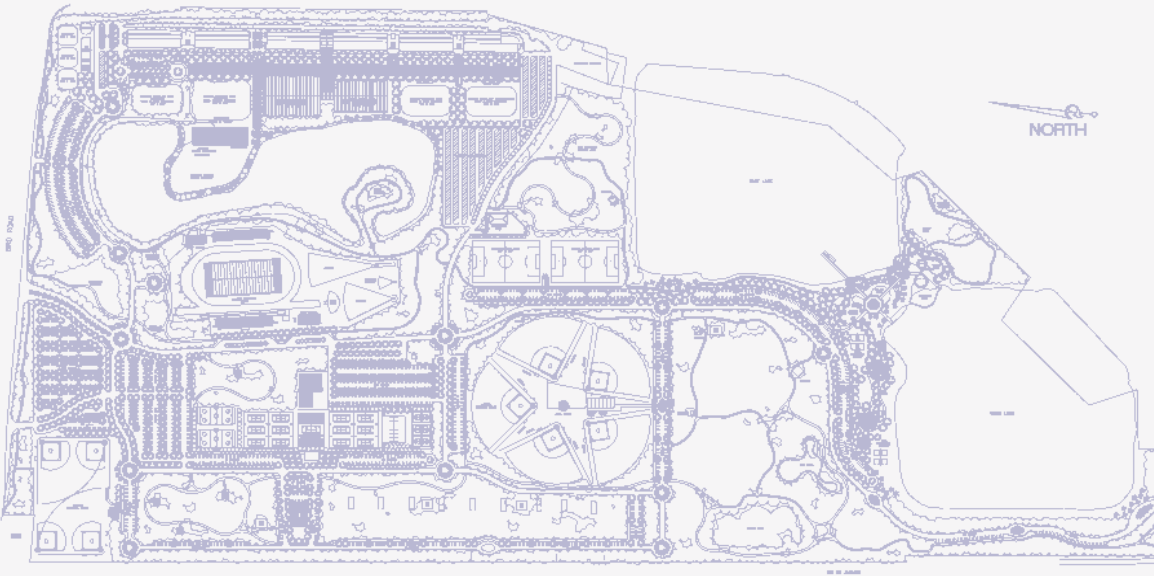
FEATURED MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT

Amazon & Beyond at Miami Metrozoo

Coming in December 2008 is a great thing to do with your family – and it comes at the completion of the major capital project being undertaken by the Park & Recreation Department – Amazon & Beyond at Miami Metrozoo. This project, jointly funded and managed with the Zoological Society of Florida, is the first major new exhibition area being completed since the opening of Metrozoo.

Here's what you have to look forward to:
The project consists of three regions and a village plaza. The village plaza is the main hub of the exhibit and is

your point of entry. This area welcomes the visitor with various artifacts and musical instruments along with interactive and interpretive venues. Once you experience the sights, sounds and smells of the village plaza you will be welcomed by the gateway to the thematic regions: Cloud Forest, Amazonia and Mata Atlantica. Each has distinct cultural and ecological characteristics. Each evokes a sense of place with all its cultural, geographical and biological diversity. The Cloud Forest suggests a place of mystery; the flooded forest of Amazonia reminds us of the vastness of the region; and the Mata Atlantica presents the fragile



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\$20/Adults, \$15/Seniors, \$10/Children 6-17 and free for Fairchild members and children 5 and under. The Festival will feature everything for the mango lover—tree sales, lectures, displays of more than 200 mangos from Fairchild nurseries, a children's program that includes a puppet show, theater, food demonstrations and a spectacular brunch. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden 10901 Old Cutler Rd. (305) 667-1651

visit our website at
www.miamidade.gov/parks



» **JUL 12, 11 AM – 4 PM**
RAILROAD YARDS
\$5/Adult, \$3/Child (Ages 3-11) under 3 free. See demonstrations of switching and consist assembly, and participate in programs which will allow you to meet the engineer and conductor, learn about their duties, and see them in action.
Gold Coast Railroad Museum
12450 SW 152nd St.
(305) 253-0063

» **JUL 12 & 20, 9 AM – 11 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON “SURF N’ TURF” EXCURSION
\$5/Adult, \$5/Child. Hike and wade through these South Florida ecosystems, Biscayne Bay and a hardwood hammock. Learn about our native birds including wading and other migratory song birds as well as other bay and forest animals, and plants. Meet your naturalist-guide at the main park entrance parking lot at 9610 Old Cutler Road. Reservations are required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

» **JUL 16, 6:30 PM**
READING UNDER THE STARS
Free. Children from the Raices Summer Arts Camp perform fairy tales with puppets they created.
Raices Hispanic Cultural Arts Center
5510 SW 94th Ct.
(301) 271-0812

» **JUL 17, 8 PM**
MOCHA SOUL SERIES PRESENTS
Featuring the latest in NeoSoul talent. An event not to be missed.
Joseph Caleb Auditorium
5400 NW 22nd Ave.
(305) 636-2350

» **JUL 19, 9 – 11 AM**
ECOADVENTURES: FUNDAMENTALS OF KAYAK & CANOE FISHING
\$15/Person. This informative workshop is geared toward fisherman of all skill levels who fish the shallow backcountry waters of South Florida in canoes, kayaks or flats boats. The expert instructor discusses moon phases, predicting tides, baits, rigs & tackle, shallow-water boats, as well as fishing techniques and seasons. Reservations are required.
Castellow Hammock Nature Center
22301 SW 162 Ave.
(305) 242-7688

» **JUL 19 – AUG 23 (SAT), 10:30 AM – 12 PM**
TAI CHI CLASSES
\$60. Apply your internal power with slow motion routines that promote health and longevity with instructor J. Morris. Classes are held in the Exhibit Room of the Visitor Center. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 19, 8 PM**
SOCIEDAD PRO-ARTE GRATELI PRESENTS CUBAN ZARZUELA
\$15-\$38.
Miami-Dade County Auditorium
2901 W Flagler St.
(305) 547-5414 or (305) 358-3558

» **JUL 21 – AUG 1, 9 AM – 4:30 PM**
DEERING DISCOVERY CAMP: SESSION IV
\$300/Child, per session (ages 6-13). Campers explore the historic and natural environment of the estate while engaging in hands-on activities.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 22 – AUG 26 (TUE), 6 – 7:30 PM & JUL 23 – AUG 27 (WED), 10 – 11:30 AM**
YOGA CLASSES
\$60/six-week session. Learn how to relax, meditate and relieve stress during this six-week course with instructor M. Shulman. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 23 – SEP 30**
“PRESERVING FLORIDA’S PAST: ENDANGERED” PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN CALL
Free and open to the public. Exhibit chronicles Florida’s rich flora and fauna and man’s interaction with and preservation of it.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 24 – AUG 28 (THU), 6:30 – 7:30 PM**
PILATES
\$60/six-week session. Focus on improving flexibility and strength with controlled movements that engage your body and mind with instructor Celia Maluf. Class size is limited.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 24 – AUG 28 (THU), 10 AM – 12:30 PM**
WATERCOLOR CLASS: SESSION IV
\$150/six-week session. Learn the basic techniques of watercolor and paper preparation. Learn how to achieve glowing colors and highlight effects. All levels welcome. Advance registration is required. A materials list will be provided upon registration.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 26, 4 – 7 PM**
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK CONCERT SERIES
Free. Featuring The Ruby Baker Band and Inside Eye.
Southridge Park
19355 SW 114th St.
(305) 693-6236

» **JUL 26 & 27, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM**
BUTTERFLY DAYS AT FAIRCHILD
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and the Miami Blue Chapter of the North American Butterfly Association are excited to announce Butterfly Days, a weekend of events celebrating butterfly appreciation, conservation and education.
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
10901 Old Cutler Rd.
(305) 667-1651

» **JUL 26, 11 AM – 1 PM**
JUNIOR TRAIN CREW MEMBER TRAINING CLASS
\$25 - \$75. This program offers children a unique opportunity to learn about railroading first-hand through classroom instruction and an introduction to museum operations.
Gold Coast Railroad Museum
12450 SW 152nd St.
(305) 253-0063
www.goldcoast-railroad.org

» **JUL 26, 8 PM (GATE OPENS AT 7 PM)**
SUMMER CABARET CONCERT SERIES: STEPHAN MIKES, SITAR PLAYER
\$20. The Concert Series features eclectic and world music artists in an intimate setting during the summer months. Guests are welcome to bring refreshments and snacks to enjoy during the show. Limited seating is available. Advance tickets recommended.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **JUL 27, 6 PM**
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER: MIAMI FC VS. ATLANTA SILVERBACKS
Tropical Park Stadium
7900 SW 40th St.
(866) 57-MIAMI

» **AUG 2, 10, 16, 24 & 30, 9 AM – 12 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: HISTORIC CORAL GABLES CANOE TOUR
\$30/Adult, \$15/Child. Canoe the historic Coral Gables waterway as naturalist-guides take you back in time to the days of George Merrick and the birth of Coral Gables and the famous Biltmore Hotel. Choose a full day trip returning at 3 PM or a half-day trip returning at 1 PM. Reservations are required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

» **AUG 2, 3 PM**
ARCHITECTURE TOUR
Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14). Discover the architectural features of some of South Florida’s earliest buildings.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **AUG 3 & 31, 9 AM – 11 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON “SURF N’ TURF” EXCURSION
\$5/Adult, \$5/Child. Hike and wade through these South Florida ecosystems, Biscayne Bay and a hardwood hammock. Learn about our native birds including wading and other migratory song birds as well as other bay and forest animals, and plants. Meet your naturalist-guide at the main park entrance parking lot at 9610 Old Cutler Road. Reservations are required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

» **AUG 4 – 15, 9 AM – 4:30 PM**
CREATIVE ART CAMP
\$300/Child, per session (ages 6-9). Through the Artist Village, exhibits, and Artists in Residence, campers will explore a balance of fine art and traditional craft utilizing the natural and historic setting of the Estate.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

- » **AUG 4 – 15, 9 AM – 4:30 PM**
DEERING DISCOVERY CAMP: SESSION V
\$300/Child, per session (ages 6-13). Campers explore the historic and natural environment of the estate while engaging in hands-on activities. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233
- » **AUG 7, 7 – 8 PM**
LECTURE: WATER CONSERVATION
Free to the public. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233
- » **AUG 9 & 23, 7 AM – 5 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: INDIAN KEY CANOE & SNORKEL ADVENTURE
\$45/Adults, \$15/Child (ages 9-14). Canoe in the Florida Keys. Explore the birth place of Miami-Dade County on Indian Key. Then snorkel in the surrounding coral reefs of the Florida Keys. Reservations are required. A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave. (305) 365-3018
- » **AUG 11 – SEP 22 (MON)**
(NO CLASS ON 9/1), 6 – 8 PM
INTRODUCTION TO ACRYLICS CLASS
\$150. Students will complete two acrylic paintings inspired by the natural surroundings of the Deering Estate. All levels are welcome. Advance registration is required. A materials list will be provided upon registration. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233

- » **BEGINNING AUG 18, 2 – 5 PM**
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN/PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Free. After-school program for children/persons age 6-22 with varying disabilities. Program will aid participants to improve literacy skills, social skills, and participate in arts & crafts and field trips. Includes out-of-school days. Coral Estates Park 1405 SW 97th Ave. (305) 226-1622 and Tamiami Park 11201 SW 24th St. (305) 222-2128
- » **AUG 23, 9 – 11 AM**
ECOADVENTURES: HUMMINGBIRD & BUTTERFLY GARDENING WORKSHOP
\$15/Person. This class covers all aspects of gardening to help you create an oasis for hummingbirds and butterflies in your own back yard. Flowering trees, shrubs, and vines that will help you attract these winged jewels will be discussed. Reservations are required. Castellow Hammock Nature Center 22301 SW 162 Ave. (305) 242-7688


- » **AUG 24, 6 PM**
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER: MIAMI FC VS. CHARLESTON BATTERY
Tropical Park Stadium 7900 SW 40th St. (866) 57-MIAMI
- » **AUG 29, 7:30 PM**
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER: MIAMI FC VS. MINNESOTA THUNDER
Tropical Park Stadium 7900 SW 40th St. (866) 57-MIAMI
- » **AUG 30, 8 PM**
(GATE OPENS AT 7 PM)
SUMMER CABARET CONCERT SERIES: JOHNNY RODGERS - JAZZ, POP & ROCK & ROLL
\$20. The Concert Series features eclectic and world music artists in an intimate setting during the summer months. Guests are welcome to bring refreshments and snacks to enjoy during the show. Limited seating is available. Advance tickets recommended. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. (305) 235-1668 ext. 233
- » **AUG 31, 6 PM**
PROFESSIONAL SOCCER: MIAMI FC VS. MINNESOTA THUNDER
Tropical Park Stadium 7900 SW 40 St. (866) 57-MIAMI

Ongoing Activities

- » **DAILY 9 AM – 4 PM (YEAR-ROUND)**
ECOADVENTURES: CRANDON PARK VISITORS & BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER
\$5/Vehicle, \$10/Bus. The Crandon Park Visitors and Biscayne Nature Center is your gateway to the Bear Cut Preserve, a 264-acre natural barrier island habitat located on the northern tip of Key Biscayne. Guided tours and educational programs are offered year round for all ages - from low tide marine beach and wading tours, to bird watching, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and bicycling. Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance (305) 361-6767 ext. 112
- » **DAILY, 10:30 AM & 3 PM**
DEERING HISTORIC HOUSE TOURS
Free with admission: \$7/Adults; \$5/Children (ages 4-14). This tour highlights the history surrounding the Deering Estate at Cutler and the story of Charles Deering. Guests will visit the 1st and 2nd floors of the Stone House and Richmond Cottage, as well as the basement/wine cellar of the Stone House. Deering Estate at Cutler 16701 SW 72 Ave. 305-235-1668 ext. 233

- » **DAILY, 10 AM – 5 PM**
FREE FLIGHT AVIARY
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. Encounter rare and exotic Asian birds close-up and in free flight. Watch them build their nests and care for their young. American Bankers Family Aviary, Wings of Asia Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com
- » **DAILY, 10:30 AM & 2:30 PM**
BIRD FEEDINGS
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. Follow the bird keepers for fun and information while they go throughout the aviary feeding the birds. American Bankers Family Aviary, Wings of Asia Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com
- » **DAILY, 9:30 AM – 5 PM**
INDOOR ACTIVITIES
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. Observe ducks swimming on top of and under the water with fish and turtles through the viewing glass of the indoor, air-conditioned Observation Center. Step out behind two waterfalls to see the aviary from a duck's eye view, and learn how you can participate in local conservation efforts in the Potamkin Conservation Center. Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com

- » **DAILY, 9:30 AM – 5 PM**
DINOSAUR ENCOUNTERS
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. View a film showing the link between dinosaurs and birds at the Field Research Center, then search for the skeleton of a 40-foot-long carnivorous dinosaur in a mock fossil excavation dig pit. Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com
- » **10 AM – 5 PM**
TOADSTOOL!
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. ToadStool is a place for fun, observation, learning, and is sure to delight the entire family. You can observe poison dart frogs in ferocious battles, watch blind cave fish as they swim without bumping into each other, see Emperor scorpions and meet a large Burmese python! Commercebank Children's Zoo Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com
- » **OPEN DAILY FROM 11 AM – 4 PM**
THE SAMBURU GIRAFFE FEEDING STATION
\$2 + admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. You will get to feed our giraffes delicious veggie treats like romaine or iceberg lettuce, kale or collard greens. Visitors have the opportunity to walk up a custom built ramp that leads to an elevated platform overlooking the giraffe exhibit. Miami Metrozoo 12400 SW 152 St. (305) 251-0400 or www.miamimetrozoo.com



PINE ROCKLAND GUIDED TOUR
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. Walk through this fire-dependent habitat that the gopher tortoise, great horned owl and the Florida panther call home. Learn about the county's largest remnant of the rare native pinelands that exist nowhere else on earth. Walking tours are scheduled through the Education Department at 305-255-5551.
Miami Metrozoo
12400 SW 152 St.
www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **DAILY, 1:30 PM**
(WITH AN EXTRA SHOW AT 2:30 PM ON WEEKENDS & HOLIDAYS)
DIEGO'S DISCOVERY DEN
Free with admission: \$13.95/Adults; \$9.95/Children. At the Commercebank Children's Zoo, see Diego in his Discovery Den! The star of Nick Jr.'s Go, Diego, Go!, one of the top pre-school shows on commercial television, has started his featured performances.
Miami Metrozoo
12400 SW 152 St.
(305) 251-0400 or
www.miamimetrozoo.com

» **MON & WED, 5 PM – 6 PM**
BASKETBALL (SPECIAL OLYMPICS)
\$32/Month. 22+ w/mild/high developmental disabilities. Learn basketball skills, drills, and compete in Special Olympics games.
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **TUE & THU, 11 AM – 12 PM**
WATER EXERCISE
\$40 (10 lessons). Adults with all abilities. Low impact water exercise class focusing on range of motion, strength and endurance.
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **TUE & THU, 5 – 6 PM**
SWIM TEAM (SPECIAL OLYMPICS)
\$40 (10 lessons). 22+ w/mild/high developmental disabilities. Learn swim techniques and participation in Special Olympics swim competitions. Must be able to swim.
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **1ST WED OF THE MONTH, 7:30 PM**
REDLAND EVENING HERB SOCIETY
Enjoy learning about herbs and their uses.
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **LAST WED OF THE MONTH, 7:30 PM**
TROPICAL FRUIT & VEGETABLE SOCIETY OF THE REDLAND
Free tasting table, plant exchange and horticultural library and monthly guest speaker lecturing on tropical fruits & vegetables.
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **WEDNESDAYS, 10 AM – 4 PM**
FREE TRAIN RIDE WEDNESDAYS
\$5/Adult, \$3/Child (ages 3-11) under 3 free. Enjoy a free ride on our Edwin Link 2-ft gauge train on Wednesdays. Trains depart at 11am & 1pm sharp. Limit 1 ride per person. Additional rides may be purchased at \$2.25 each. Fares for groups, field trips, parties, and other special events remain in effect. Model display building open 11am to 2pm.
Gold Coast Railroad Museum
12450 SW 152nd St.
(305) 253-0063

» **2ND THU OF THE MONTH, 7 PM**
SOUTH DADE GARDEN CLUB
In existence for 70 years, 55 years at the Park, the South Dade Garden Club is an opportunity to learn about gardening, and make some new friends.
Fruit and Spice Park
24801 SW 187 Ave.
(305) 247-5727 or
www.fruitandspicepark.org

» **FUN ON FRIDAYS, 6 – 10:30 PM**
\$25 (per day, \$160 per month). 22+ w/mild developmental disabilities. Social- and community-based program. Participate in a variety of community tips and continue working on independence and safety skills.
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **SAT, 8:30 AM – 12:30PM**
(TWICE A MONTH)
SPORTS SATURDAY
(SPECIAL OLYMPICS)
\$32/Month. 22+ w/mild developmental disabilities. Come and learn a rotating schedule of sports such as track & field, tennis, basketball, bowling and compete in the Special Olympics games!
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **SATURDAY IN THE PARK, 9 AM – 4:30 PM**
\$40 (per day, \$160 per month). 22+ w/mild developmental disabilities. Social- and community-based program. Participate in a variety of community tips and continue working on independence.
A.D. Barnes Park
Leisure Access Center
3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 665-5319

» **EVERY SAT, 10 AM – 11 AM**
ECOADVENTURES:
ARCH CREEK TRAIL TOURS
\$3/Person. Join this naturalist guided tour through a tropical hardwood hammock and find an assortment of interesting plants and animals native to South Florida. Reservations are required.
Arch Creek Museum & Nature Center
Arch Creek Park, 1855 NE 135 St.
(305) 948-2891

» **EVERY SAT, 10 AM – 1 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: ARCH CREEK PARK OLETA RIVER CANOE TRIP
\$25/Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 7-14). The beauty of the Oleta River has drawn man to its shore for centuries. Launch from East Greynolds, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach. Reservations are required.
Arch Creek Museum & Nature Center
Arch Creek Park, 1855 NE 135 St.
(305) 365-3018
www.miamimetrozoo.com

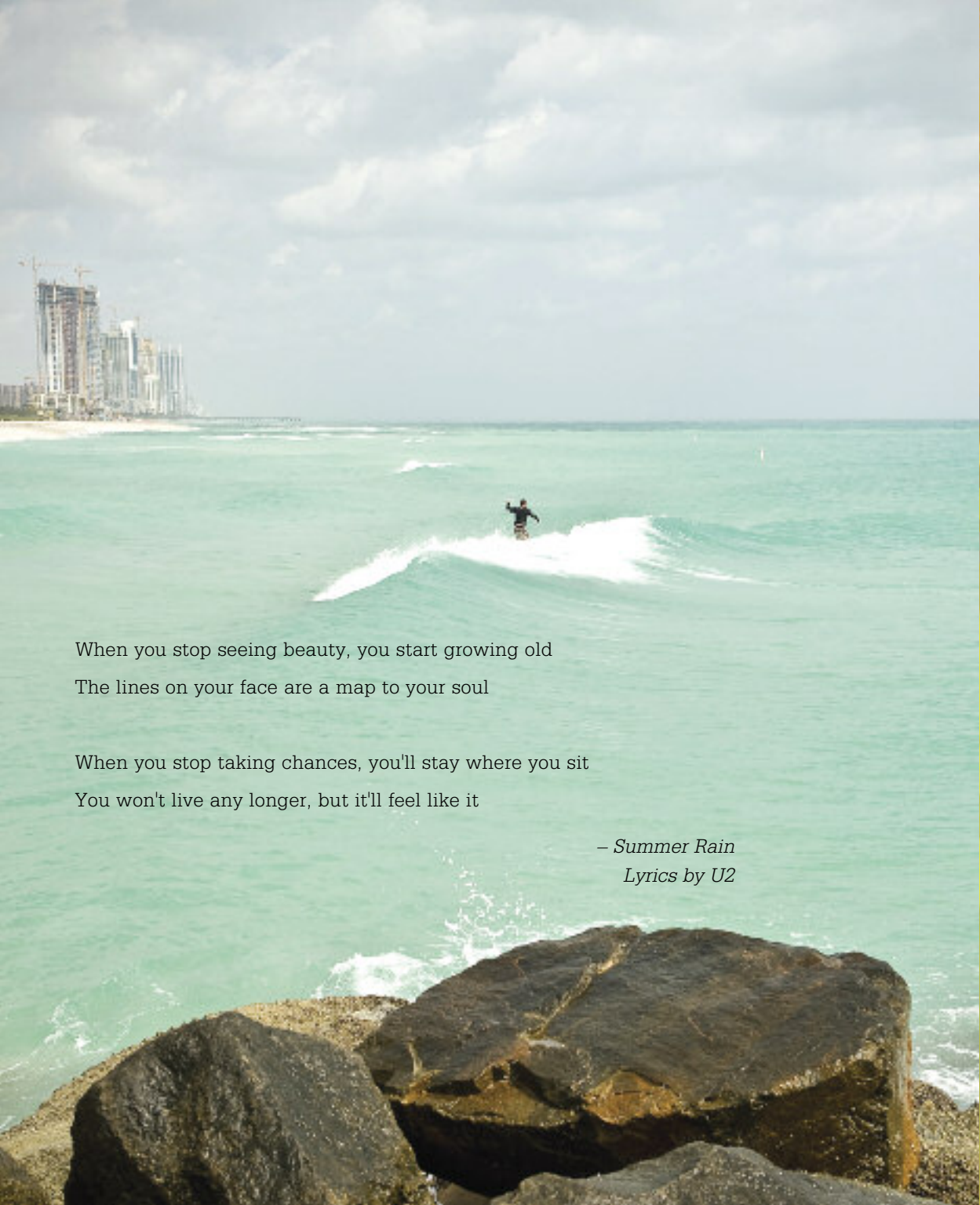
» **EVERY SAT & SUN, 10 AM**
ECOADVENTURES: GREYNOLDS PARK GUIDED NATURE WALKS
\$3/Person. Join a naturalist-guided walk around Miami-Dade County's second oldest park to discover the wonder of our local history, flora and fauna. Reservations are recommended.
Greynolds Park
17530 W Dixie Hwy.
(305) 945-3425

» **EVERY SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 1 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: BEAR CUT PRESERVE NATURE WALKS
\$3/Person. Learn about the invertebrates that inhabit the sea grass beds of Crandon Park as you participate in a touch tank presentation, or enjoy a leisurely walk one of the many trails of Bear Cut Preserve. Bring your binoculars and your water shoes.
Crandon Park Visitors & Biscayne Nature Center
6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne
Parking Lot #1, North Beach Entrance
(305) 361-6767, ext. 112

» **EVERY SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 12 PM AND 4 PM – 6 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: MATHESON BAY SHORE CANOE TREK
\$25/Adult, \$15/Child (Ages 7-14). Canoe through a mangrove forest and learn about the native wading birds and other bay animals and plants of this South Florida ecosystem. Reservations are required.
A.D. Barnes Sense of Wonder Nature Center
A.D. Barnes Park, 3401 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 365-3018

» **SAT & SUN, 10 AM – 3 PM**
KAYAK RENTALS
Adults \$10/Hr. plus regular park admission; Children (Ages 9-15) \$8/Hr. plus regular park admission. Minimum 1 hour rental. Includes kayak, life vests, paddles and a small dry bag. To rent a kayak, you must be at least 21 years old. Ages of 9-20 must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian in the same kayak. Two people per kayak required. All rentals are subject to weather and wind conditions.
Deering Estate at Cutler
16701 SW 72 Ave.
(305) 235-1668 ext. 233

» **EVERY SUN, 10 AM – 1 PM**
ECOADVENTURES: GREYNOLDS PARK OLETA RIVER KAYAK TOUR
\$25/Adult, \$15/Child (ages 7-14). Join park naturalists on this guided kayak exploration of the Oleta River. Visit an archaeological site where Tequesta Indians made their home over 2000 years ago. Launch from East Greynolds, 16700 Biscayne Blvd., North Miami Beach. Reservations are required.
Greynolds Park Boathouse and Nature Center
17530 W Dixie Hwy.
(305) 365-3018
www.fruitandspicepark.org



When you stop seeing beauty, you start growing old
The lines on your face are a map to your soul

When you stop taking chances, you'll stay where you sit
You won't live any longer, but it'll feel like it

– *Summer Rain*
Lyrics by U2

www.miamidade.gov/parks

GET CONNECTED.

GET INFORMED.

GET PARKLIFE.

Stay updated on all the events and programs
happening in your Miami-Dade Parks by
visiting the website.



